



THE GREENEST OLYMPIC GAMES

GRADES 4-6



THE TOKYO 2020 OLYMPICS HAVE GONE TO GREAT LENGTHS TO MAKE THIS THE GREENEST GAMES EVER. THEY WANT TO INSPIRE PEOPLE TO TAKE CARE OF THE ENVIRONMENT. WHAT IF YOU WERE PART OF THEIR EFFORT TO INSPIRE THE WORLD TO BE GREENER?



A girl donates her mobile phone in one of the collection points in Japan



The Musashino Forest Sport Plaza, a new permanent venue to be used during the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020

Solar panels on the roof and other state-of-the-art technology help reduce the facility's carbon footprint.

Hosting the Olympics can make a big mess. Fans leave garbage. Teams use energy. Cars, busses and planes make pollution. The Tokyo 2020 Olympic organizers want to host a clean and green Olympics.

Making the Games green is a priority. Toshiro Muto leads Tokyo 2020. He says, "combating climate change is important."

Cities that bid to host the Olympics must have a plan to make the Games green. They must take care of the environment.

Sometimes their plans can be too hard to meet. London 2012 said that they would have a low carbon Games. But they still got most of their energy from fossil fuels. Rio 2016 built stadiums that were too big and costly to use after the Games.

Tokyo 2020 wants their Games to be the greenest ever. They will aim to have zero carbon and waste. Even the medals are made of recycled things.



ZERO CARBON

Burning fossil fuels makes air pollution. Gases like carbon dioxide cause climate change. Being carbon neutral means that you produce less carbon gas and find ways to absorb the carbon dioxide that is produced. Trees and green plants absorb carbon from the air.

Japan is using the Games to make Tokyo carbon neutral. They are using new technology. Solar roads will use the sun's energy to power buildings. Newer trains and busses will use less energy. The city will grow more trees and make new green spaces to absorb carbon.

WASTE REDUCTION

Any big sporting event can create a lot of garbage. Tokyo 2020 will try to have a zero waste Olympics. This means they will reduce food waste and limit packaging. But that's just the start.

Products like spoons or beds are made in steps. Tokyo 2020 wants to buy from companies that get rid of waste at each step. Almost all items and goods bought for the Games will be re-used or recycled.

Project BATON does just that. The Village Plaza will be built using timber given from the regions of Japan. The Plaza will be taken apart after the Games. The used timber will be returned to the regions that gave them. Waste not, want not.

THE MEDAL PROJECT

The Olympics will give Tokyo a chance to be a role model. Even small things done to save the planet set good examples. Fans will see recycling in action every time a medal is awarded. The medals are made from old cell phones. People gave their devices for the project. The Canadian Olympic Committee helped by giving 100 old cell phones. From this came enough gold, silver and bronze to make over 5,000 medals. They are turning garbage into the symbols of victory.

BEING BETTER

The Olympic Games have become more than just a sports event. The Olympics celebrate humans and urge us all to be better. To try for excellence. To respect others. To make new friends. The Games also challenge us to take better care of our planet. If such a large sports event can be good to the earth, maybe we can all do a bit more.



Tokyo Medals made from recycled waste



SCHOOL PROGRAM



Tokyo Bay and the Rainbow bridge

CLEANING UP TOKYO BAY

Cleaning up Tokyo Bay for the triathlon and marathon swim is a big job. It may just be too hard. The Tokyo sewer system can't handle heavy rains. Dirty water overflows into Tokyo Bay. It is then too polluted for swimming. Tokyo has enlarged some of its sewer pipes. They hope this will send more run-off water away from the Bay. They are also using oysters to clean the Bay. Oysters filter pollution from the water. They have planted bamboo along the shore to help grow the oysters. It seems to be working. The swim season is getting longer. Will Tokyo Bay be ready for the athletes? Stay tuned!



RECYCLED UNIFORMS

TV always zooms in on the host team. You will see a lot of Team Japan and they will be wearing recycled clothes. Their uniforms will be made from old donated clothes. The polyester from the old clothes will be used to make new uniforms. Most clothes get thrown away after they are worn out. Making new clothes creates 1/10th of the world's greenhouse gases. It also makes 1/5th of the world's wastewater.



Tokyo's recycled uniforms



SCHOOL PROGRAM

Talk About It!

What does it mean to be carbon neutral?

How is Tokyo 2020 using oysters to help clean up Tokyo Bay?



1. GREENING THE GAMES

Tokyo 2020 has put a lot into making their Olympics the greenest yet. But do the athletes know about what they are doing for the environment? They need a brochure for the welcome kits that explains all the things they are doing. Imagine they have hired you and your friends to design the brochure. Use information from the article and the internet. **Use images and facts to show how they are making this a clean and green Olympics.**

ACTIVITY EXTENSION

The athletes and coaches can do things to contribute to making it a green Games. Make a flyer for the Olympic teams telling them how they can help in reaching carbon neutrality. **Use some of the ideas from the article and others from the Internet.**

2. INSPIRING CHANGE

Lots of people look up to Canada's Olympians. Olympians can be role models and inspire people. The Canadian Olympic Team wants to make some ads to challenge people to reduce their carbon output. **Work as a team to design an ad to inspire people to reduce their carbon output. In your ad, use an athlete who is competing in Tokyo to challenge your classmates and inspire change in your school!**

ACTIVITY EXTENSION

The Canadian Olympic Team wants to lead an I promise radio campaign. They want to get Olympians to promise to reduce their carbon output. They are hoping this will inspire the Olympians friends to do the same. Pretend that you are an Olympian. **Present a 20 second radio ad about the I promise campaign.**

